



# Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission 2002 Annual Report/2003 Work Plan

January 22, 2003

# Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission

## 2002 Annual Report/2003 Work Plan

### EQC Mission

**A seven member citizen board created under state law to:**

- Advise state officials on environmental matters,
- Facilitate public discussion and resolution of environmental issues,
- Increase public awareness, responsibility and positive actions toward a clean environment,
- Promote partnerships to protect the environment for future generations, and
- Monitor and report on environmental trends.

### 2002 Key Accomplishments

#### **Public Discussion of Issues**

EQC held seven public meetings/forums to discuss issues of public concern. More than 360 people attended EQC meetings in 2002. Meeting topics included:

- Power Plants in Kentucky: Siting, Permitting and Environmental Issues
- Contaminated Waste Sites and Issues in Ky. -- House Bill 174, Superfund Sites
- Clean Water Act: 30 Years -- How Far has Kentucky Come?
- Legislative briefing: Discussion of Key Environmental Issues
- Forestry Forum (Morehead)
- Pine Mountain Ecotourism Roundtable (Harlan County)
- Tour of Maxey Flats Radioactive Waste Disposal Superfund Site (Fleming County)

See [www.kyeqc.net/meetings.html](http://www.kyeqc.net/meetings.html)

#### **Promoting Positive Actions**

EQC held its annual Earth Day Award Ceremony honoring 12 Kentuckians for outstanding service and commitment to Kentucky's environment. See [www.kyeqc.net/eday.html](http://www.kyeqc.net/eday.html)

#### **Public Involvement in State Decision-Making**

EQC developed 41 policy recommendations regarding:

- |                     |                                               |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| • Antidegradation   | • Daniel Boone National Forest (2)            |
| • Forestry (6)      | • Power plant siting and environmental issues |
| • Maxey flats (10)  | • Environmental spills and incidents (20)     |
| • Coal mine mapping | • Blackside dace (endangered species)         |

See [www.kyeqc.net/resolutions.html](http://www.kyeqc.net/resolutions.html)

#### **Providing Public Access to Information**

EQC provided timely information to promote a better understanding of environmental issues.

- EQC prepared an *Environmental Timeline* to review events that have impacted the state.
- EQC added *Virtual Meetings* to its Web site allowing Kentuckians to have access to information presented at EQC meetings. See [www.kyeqc.net/meetings.html](http://www.kyeqc.net/meetings.html)
- EQC added *Meeting Background/Issue Papers* to its Web site to compile information about an issue in one convenient location. See [www.kyeqc.net/special.html](http://www.kyeqc.net/special.html)
- EQC converted its Web site to ADA compliance so all Kentuckians have equal access to information.
- EQC's bimonthly *newsletters* detailing public meetings, notices, proposed regulations and environmental news were distributed to 4,000 subscribers. See [www.kyeqc.net/pubs.html](http://www.kyeqc.net/pubs.html)
- EQC conducted an *Online Environmental Survey* resulting in 1,600 responses. See [www.kyeqc.net/special.html](http://www.kyeqc.net/special.html)
- EQC fielded 537 individual e-mail messages, complaints and inquiries.
- The EQC Web site received 32,258 unique hits since September 1999 making it one of the more popular Web sites in state government.

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### 2003 EQC WORK PLAN

#### **Priority 1**

##### ***Facilitate Public Discussion of Key Issues***

EQC will continue to work to strengthen the public role in solving environmental problems in our communities and in the state. EQC will target key issues, conduct public meetings and formulate recommendations on environmental issues of concern. Topics for the 2003 calendar year are:

1. *Public Health and the Environment - Public Forum*

How is pollution affecting our health? This will be the subject of an EQC forum in 2003. Issues such as mercury in fish, spraying of pesticides, lead-based paint, bacteria in our waterways, and toxic and other air pollutants will be reviewed and opportunities identified to address the impact of these and other pollutants on the health of Kentuckians.

2. *Sustainable Forestry - Public Meeting*

Are our forests sustainable at current rates of logging? The U.S. Forest Service will provide some insight on this question at a public meeting where they will share their findings of a forest survey conducted in Kentucky. EQC will also hear from federal officials on the proposed plan to manage the Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky's only national forest.

3. *Water Quality - Public Meeting*

Efforts to restore Kentucky's waterways have stalled. What measures are necessary to address the many pollution problems confronting our rivers, streams and lakes? EQC will receive a status report on water quality in Kentucky and review key issues and needs.

4. *State Environmental Goals - Public Meeting*

How will the current budget constraints affect environmental programs? Will Kentucky see environmental progress in the years ahead? This meeting will focus on critical issues facing Kentucky's environment and setting state goals and priorities.

5. *Energy and the Environment - Public Meeting*

Kentucky faces a number of critical issues related to energy. How should Kentucky promote greater energy conservation and efficiency? What measures should be taken to address environmental issues associated with energy production and generation? This meeting will review these and other issues as well as seek recommendations for a state energy policy that promotes clean, abundant, reliable and affordable energy supplies.

#### **Priority 2**

##### ***Monitor and Report on Environmental Conditions in Kentucky***

EQC will continue to assess the effectiveness of state efforts to protect the environment. More than 100 indicators will be used to review environmental and natural resource conditions in the state and allow Kentucky to better track areas of progress and problems.

6. *Web-Version State of Kentucky's Environment report* will be published in 2003 to monitor and report on environmental trends and conditions.

7. *Indicator of the Month* will be developed and posted on the EQC Web site to keep the public and state decisionmakers up-to-date on key issues.

#### **Priority 3**

##### ***Promote Partnerships for a Clean Environment and Prosperous Economy***

Government alone cannot solve environmental problems. It will take partnerships to protect the environment and build a strong economy. In 2003, EQC will continue to facilitate a partnership in the Pine Mountain region of eastern Kentucky to promote nature-based tourism.

8. *Pine Mountain Tourism Initiative* - EQC will seek public input in the development of recommendations to promote nature-based tourism in the Pine Mountain region.

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#### Priority 4

##### ***Public Outreach and Information***

EQC will continue to offer the public timely information in a cost efficient manner.

9. EQC Bimonthly Newsletters will be published to notify the public of state/federal notices, meetings, public hearings, proposed regulations as well as state environmental news. EQC will convert 1,000 of its 4,000 mail subscribers to e-mail in order to save postage and printing costs.
10. An Inquiry Service will be offered through the EQC Web site at [www.kyeqc.net](http://www.kyeqc.net) to respond to public concerns in a timely and efficient manner.

#### Priority 5

##### ***Build an environmental literate citizenry***

Promoting individual responsibility and actions for a clean environment is critical if Kentucky is to continue to make progress in protecting the environment. EQC will work with others to advance a better understanding of the environment and promote positive actions.

11. EQC will hold its annual Earth Day Ceremony to honor Kentuckians for outstanding service to the environment and promote individual, industry and government responsibility.
12. Lesson units for the State of Kentucky's Environment report are under development through a partnership between EQC, the Kentucky Environmental Education Council and several teachers.
13. EQC will partner with the Kentucky Environmental Education Council to assist with the Youth Environment Summit on Smart Growth to be held in May 2003.

#### **EQC Commissioners:**

Aloma Dew, Chair, Owensboro  
Betsy Rudd Bennett, Vice Chair, Louisville  
Robert Riddle, Midway  
Serena Williams, Louisville  
Gary Revlett, Shelbyville  
Jean Dorton, Paintsville  
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The Environmental Quality Commission welcomes public input. To receive the free EQC newsletter, call (502)564-2150 ext. 160, e-mail [EQC@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:EQC@mail.state.ky.us), or write to EQC at 14 Reilly Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601. You can also submit your comments at our Web site at [www.kyeqc.net](http://www.kyeqc.net).

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